



The Virtue of Appreciation!

Romans 16:1-4

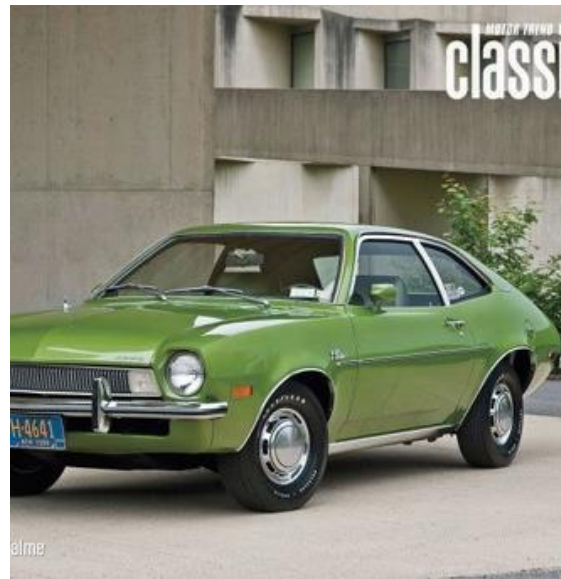
Observations

- **Since the Pandemic began approximately 20 months ago, Social Distancing has become a “temporary norm” in society to prevent the Covid 19 spread**
- **We have come to appreciate virtual platforms like Face time, Webex and Zoom to help us to get around the separation that we have endured**
- **But we shouldn't need the problems of separation to understand, “The Virtue of Appreciation,” or to value something or somebody highly**

#1 We Need to Appreciate Things!

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” 1 Timothy 6:17

- **God has provided for us “instruments of help,” during this Covid 19 Pandemic**
 - **Testing for a Virus that we have never seen (PCR, Antibodies)**
 - **Treatment for a Virus that we have never seen (Antiviral Rx)**
 - **Cancer Evaluations: Breast Mammography, Breast Ultrasound, Breast MRI, PSA, Prostate Bx., Bone Marrow Bx.**
 - **Colonoscopy, Bone Scans, Monitoring Schedules**
 - **Treatments that were not available in early 2020 for COVID 19**



My parents saw me riding a bicycle on the campus of the University of Alabama in the rain one day, circa 1972, and decided to do something about it

Have You Ever Seen People Not Appreciative of Things?"

I went from "heels to wheels" as a freshman in College but was not appreciative!

I almost burned up the engine by neglecting to put oil in the car!

Stop a Minute and Be Appreciative!

- The clothes you have
- The roof over your head
- The food you choose to eat
- The car that runs
- The job that employs you that God gave to you
- The Government Security Benefits that sustain you

“For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.”

1 Timothy 6:8

#2 We Need to Appreciate People

***“Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my helpers in Christ Jesus. Who have for my life laid down their own necks; unto whom not only I give thanks, but also the churches of the Gentiles.”
Romans 16:3***

- Priscilla and Aquila were a Christian couple that Paul appreciated for their hospitality and physical protection
- They helped Paul to convert Apollos, a mighty preacher to Christianity. They opened up their home to a Bible class and Christian service, Acts 18:26 (like many of us do: zone meetings, pot luck meals, taking food to satisfy hungry souls)
- We need to be appreciative of those who have been influential in teaching us the truth. Are we?

Has Anyone Ever Taken a Risk for You?

- **Financial Risk? Have you acknowledged your appreciation to them?**
- **Physical Risk? Have you acknowledged appreciation to them?**
- **Maybe someone needed to be with you in court, or a doctor's office or a hospital or a funeral. Have you acknowledged your appreciation for their presence? (through tear-stained eyes)**
- **Obviously, Paul was thankful to this couple and he let the church of Christ at Rome know that; Romans 16:4**
- **Don't just take people for granted (wife, husband, children, church members)**
- **During this Pandemic, Christians are reaching out to try and keep other Christians connected to our local spiritual family**

#3 We Need to Appreciate God

- **Question: Has the newness of your relationship with Christ worn off? (like a new relationship on cloud nine that fizzles)**
- **Question: Has the Pandemic caused your faith and dedication to waver? (Has the isolation affected you?)**
- **Has the Pandemic caused you to lose your appreciation for God and feel socially distanced from Him?**
- **Listen to David when he felt “socially distanced” from God
Psalms 51:10-13**
“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.” (work with me)
Then I will teach transgressors your ways so that sinners will turn back to you.”

Ecclesiastes 2:26

“To the person who pleases Him, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one that pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.”

- **The person with the Godly relationship is given the wisdom and knowledge to see what is really important in life (Ecclesiastes 12:13)**
- **The person who doesn't know God ends up putting their efforts into perishable things; things that won't last; things that bring more trouble, jail time, sorrow, and even death**

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38